

B. Claims

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A processing apparatus that provides a plasma treatment to an object, said processing apparatus comprising:

a process chamber that accommodates an object to be processed and generates plasma;

a gas introducing part for introducing gas into the process chamber;

a mechanism that arranges the object in a flow of the gas such that the object is (i) closer to the gas introducing part than to a plasma generating region and (ii) between the gas introducing part and [[the]] a plasma generating region in the flow of the gas; and

~~an exhaust mechanism, which is arranged closer to the plasma generating region than to the object, for exhausting the gas, wherein the plasma processing region is located in a path of the flow of the gas introduced via the gas introducing part.~~

2. (Original) A processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising, between the object and the plasma generating region, a conductance adjuster for maintaining, within a predetermined range, a concentration of active species in a process space that encloses the object.

3. (Original) A processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said conductance adjuster is a plate bored with plural holes.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plasma treatment is oxidation or nitridation to a surface of the object.

7-20. (Cancelled).